Da'wah

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دعوة

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Note: Please note that all quotes from the Noble Quran are translation of the meaning of the verses. They are not translation of the verses as the Quran cannot be translated directly.

Introduction:

Meaning of *da'wah* and *da'iyah*:

1- Language: to call, deliver, invite.
2- Juridical: to call people for Islam and good in general.
3- Who is the *da'iyah*?

Need for *da'wah*:

Everybody needs *da'wah*. All mankind: black and white, rich and poor, old and young, etc. need to fulfill their obligation to Allah, which is to worship Him; as He, the Exalted, mentioned in Quran, "I have not created Jin and Mankind except to worship Me." (*Surat* Adh-Dhariyaat) Therefore, they all need to be invited to the path of Allah (Islam). They need guided to the right way. Moreover, everybody even Muslims need to be reminded and guided how to lead all aspect of their life according to Allah's will.

Virtues of *da'wah* and *da'iyah*:

The people who work in the Field of *da'wah* have many virtues, because of the nature of the mission they do. These include the following:

1. Mission of the Messengers: *da'wah* is the mission of the messengers of Allah. The messengers were selected by Allah and equipped specifically for the job of guiding humans to the path of Allah. Allah mentioned this in the Quran in:

a. *Surat* an-Nahl: 36.
b. *Surat* al-Ahzab: 45-46.

So the *da'iyahs* are the inheritors of the messengers.

2. Among the best deeds: There is no deed better than belief in Allah, making good deeds and making *da'wah* as in *surat* Fussilat: 33. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said, "If Allah guides one person through you, it is better for you than the whole *dunia* (this world)."

3. Continuing Rewards for others good deeds: The *da'iyah* gets as much rewards as those who follow him without any decrease in their reward; as specified by the Hadeeth of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) in *Saheeh Muslim*.

4. Survival from punishment: The one who makes *da'wah* for the sake of Allah, commands good and forbids evil will be saved – by the Mercy of Allah – from punishment in this Life and the Hereafter. Allah told us about the story of the Jews who rejected His commands not to fish on Saturdays. Only the people who warned against disobeying Allah's command were save from punishment. Others, including those who did not commit the crime were punished because they stayed silent about it. [*surat* al-A'raaf: 165]

5. Salah of Allah, the Angels and the rest of creation: Allah's *Salah* is His Mercy. Angles' and other creation's *Salah* is prayers for forgiveness and good for the *da'iyah* who teaches people good as mentioned in the *hadeeth* narrated by at-Tirmidhi.

Responsibility of *da'iyah*:

It is important to understand the limits of the responsibility of the *da'iyah* and his role. This can be illustrated in the following points:

1- The responsibility of the *da'iyah* includes only delivering the truth and showing it to people in the best possible way using all valid means he can attain. This is the type of Guidance which lies under his domain.

2- The other type of guidance which is leading people to accept the truth lies under the Power of Allah; for He is the one who controls people's hearts and fate.

3- Therefore, one should not be worried if his call for good is not accepted. Allah told the Messenger, "You cannot guide whom you love, but Allah guides whom He wills."

4- Moreover, our concern should be about our role which is to deliver the *da'wah* with the best possible way even if others reject it, or some people make fun of our effort or try to ridicule it.

Requirements of *da'wah*:

There are many requirements for one to perform *da'wah* and carry out the mission to teaching people good, inviting them to accept it and warning them against evil and all that keeps them away from Allah. These requirements include:

1- Firm belief in Islam and sincerity for it, and that it is the religion of truth from Allah. One will not be able to call for this religion if he does not remind himself continuously with the basic facts of Tawheed and that the main purpose of life is to worship Allah and accept His commands which were conveyed by His Messenger (peace be upon him). Allah mentioned that His Messenger and the believers all had believed in Him, as in *surat* Al-Baqarah: 285.

2- Confirmation of belief by testimony of tongue, and call upon others to follow it. A natural consequence of belief of the heart is to declare it and reveal it to others. Allah mentioned that this is the covenant that He took upon the People of the Book but they did not keep it, *surat* Al-Imraan: 187.

3- To act upon the requirements of this religion and the call for it. It is not befitting to call for a concept, an idea, or an act but fail to act upon it. This is a great challenge, because it may be easy to speak the truth without having to stand by it. But only the sincere believer will stand firm by it and make it govern his actions and deeds even during the most difficult situations.

4- The *da'wah* for Islam and good should be above all interests, alliances and desires. Refer to *surat* Al-Maa'idah: 8.

5- One should be ready to sacrifice effort, time, money and even his soul for the sake of Allah and the call for His path. Refer to *surat* Al-'Ankabut: 69, and At-Tawbah.

Characteristics of Messengers *da'wah*

There are certain characteristics of the Messengers way to address their people and call them to Allah. One of the most important aspects in the messengers' way is that they consider the condition and mentality of their people who they address for *da'wah*.

Considering Recipient Condition

1. Presenting *da'wah* through the easy and pleasant way. The messenger (peace be upon him) said, "يسروا ولا تعسروا، وبشروا ولا تنفروا".

2. Avoiding all that agitates the others or makes them angry. Allah command us not to curse the gods of the disbelievers since this will lead them to curse Allah and avoid accepting the truth, as in *surat* Al-An'aam: 108. Also, refer to *surat* Al-Israa': 53.

3. Using the proper language with people according to their status. Allah commanded Musa and Harun to speak softly to Pharaoh so that he may accept the truth, as in *surat* Taha: 43-44.

4. Avoiding arguments if the other party seeks only to object and criticize only without effort to reach the truth.

5. Waiting for the proper time so that the other party is not busy or consumed with other matter.

6. Avoiding speaking too much or making others get bored.

7. Being always ready to make *da'wah* so that whenever there is the right situation, he goes ahead and delivers the message.

8. Starting from the issues which attract the others and moving towards what he wants to address.

Case Studies:

1. The Messenger (peace be upon him) with Utbah ibn Rabee'ah.
2. Prophet Ibrahim with the Numrud (Al-Baqarah: 258).
3. Prophet Yousuf (Surat Yousuf: 36-41).
4. Mus'ab ibn 'Umair in Madinah. Other cases…

Qualities of *da'iyah*

For the *da'iyah* to be successful, there are certain qualities that he or she has to acquire:

Strong connection with Allah:

The strong connection with Allah is the fuel that keeps the person who wants to call for Allah on the right track and endure the hardships that he may face during *da'wah*. This strong connection can be seen in

1- Keeping the

Such characteristics ensure that the *da'wah* is delivered in the best possible way and becomes most effective

1. They speak the same language as their people.